

Inventors: Hoch and Dartois  
Serial No.: 09/557,796  
Filed: April 25, 2000  
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Technology Program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The United States Government has certain rights in this invention.--

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In the Claims:

Please cancel pending claims 122-129, without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 99-129 are pending in this application. Claims 99-121 are directed to methods for detecting the presence, absence, or amount of a target compound in a sample, as well as to recombinant cells used in these methods. Claims 122-129 are directed to detecting the presence, absence, or amount of ascorbate in a sample, as well as to YiaJ promoter-containing recombinant cells used in this method. The Examiner has alleged that claims 99-121 are directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention as originally claimed. Therefore, the Examiner has only considered claims 122-129 in the final Office Action.

Applicants traverse the separation of claims 99-121 from claims 122-129 as improper because there would not be a serious burden on the Office if these claims were examined together (MPEP § 803). Additionally, Applicants traverse the rejections of record regarding claims 122-129. Nevertheless, Applicants have canceled claims 122-129, without prejudice, in

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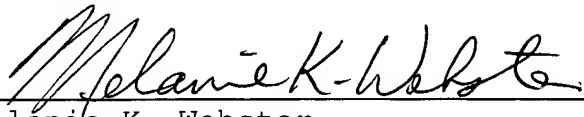
order to pursue claims 99-121. Following entry of the above amendments, claims 99-121 will be pending.

**CONCLUSION**

The Examiner is invited to call Cathryn Campbell or the undersigned agent if there are any questions.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date

  
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